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Notes on Stevenson-U Thant Conversation Today.

Charlie Yost has given us a quick summary of the talk between Ambassador Stevenson and U Thant this morning. As will be fully reported by cable, the discussion covered three topics.

1. Ambassadorial Verification Group. U Thant told of his second proposal to Castro for a group of ambassadors accredited to Havana (composed of 2 Latin Americans, 2 Europeans, 2 Africans, and 2 Asians) who would have the function not only of verifying the departure of offensive weapons and the dismantling of their bases, but also to serve as a liaison unit with the UN in the longer term. U Thant does not expect Castro to accept the verification function, but seems to entertain some hope that he would agree to the longer term liaison function. (We had expressed some concern to U Thant about this ill-defined second function when it was first discussed, but he seems to have gone ahead with it any way.)

2. Possible Report to the Security Council. U Thant said he had some concern about the time that had elapsed since the Security Council had adjourned and wondered if he was under compulsion to make a report to the Council very soon on the status of negotiations between the parties concerned. Not only Stevenson, but also U Thant's own advisers present strongly discouraged this idea. Yost seems to think that the SYG was talking out this one.

3. Caribbean Security Commission. The SYG shared with Stevenson his thoughts as to the possibility of setting up a UN Caribbean Security Commission which would have the function of reporting both on the non-reintroduction of offensive weapons into Cuba, and on the non-invasion of Cuba. Stevenson said this would give us difficulty, but this part of the conversation was inconclusive.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDO/MB

The Secretary
cc: Mr. Ball
Mr. Johnson

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